

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7, 8, 11, and 15 are now pending in the application. The remaining claims have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. The amendments to the claims herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain new matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shaver (U.S. Pat. No. 5,996,870). These claims have been cancelled, thus rendering this § 102 rejection moot.

DRAWINGS

On January 14, 2004, Applicants submitted 14 sheets of formal drawings showing Figures 1 through 14. Applicants request cancellation of sheets 9 through 14 showing Figures 9 through 14. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants attach a new set of formal drawings with sheets 1 through 8 showing Figures 1 through 8.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 4, 7, 8, 11 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Merely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended Claims 4, 7, and 15 to include the features of their respective base claims. No amendment to Claims 8 and 11 was necessary because they depend from Claim 7, which is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4-8-07

By: Brent G. Seitz
Mark D. Elchuk, Reg. 33,686
Brent G. Seitz, Reg. 54,435

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

BGS